

S. Africa content with Israeli military ties

TEL AVIV (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. Botha said Sunday there was no need for Israel to lift restrictions on military cooperation between their countries. Mr. Botha is accompanying President F.W. de Klerk, who arrived Sunday for the first visit to Israel by a South African head of state in 16 years. "We have no intention to discuss any military matters. There is no reason for it, no reason whatsoever," Mr. Botha told reporters after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy. "The position is well-known since 1987. No new contracts have been signed. There is no need for new contracts to sign now or in the future." There have been recurring media reports of secret cooperation between Israel and South Africa, especially in nuclear and missile technology. Israel has denied them. In 1987 Israel followed most Western countries in imposing military, cultural, and economic sanctions to press for abolition of apartheid. It said it would not sign new military contracts with South Africa but would honour existing ones. Last July, Israel lifted all but military sanctions in response to Mr. De Klerk's step-by-step reforms to give South Africa's black majority a share in running the country.

Volume 16 Number 4852

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1991, JUMADEH AL OULA 5, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Brotherhood sends petition to Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Taha Masri calling on him to give newspapers "freedom of expression and to allow writers to express their views in a healthy and democratic atmosphere and to allow opposition to use peaceful means in expressing their views in the media and public places." It called on the government to allow publishing Al Rabat newspaper, the mouthpiece of the movement, in Jordan. The memo said that the Brotherhood's opposition to the government "stems from our keenness on the interests of our homeland and nation, and it is an opposition by democratic means and a stabilizing factor in such circumstances."

U.S. ambassador returns to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roger G. Harrison, returned to Amman Sunday after receiving medical treatment as a result of a car accident outside of Jerusalem on Oct. 28. Mr. Harrison is expected to make a full recovery and will resume his duties after a period of rest at home, according to a press release issued by the American embassy here.

King Fahd names new air chief

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd named Lieutenant-General Majed Ben Tahab Al Utabi as air force commander Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency said. Gen. Ben Utabi replaces Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, commander of joint forces in the Gulf war, who stepped down in late September. No official reason has been given for the departure of Prince Khaled, son of Defence Minister Prince Sultan, but diplomats in the kingdom said he wanted to pursue business interests.

All U.S. army gear out of S. Arabia soon

BAHRAIN (AP) — With the exception of nearly a quarter of a million tons of ammunition, all American military equipment deployed in Saudi Arabia for the Gulf war will be out of the kingdom by Dec. 15, a U.S. military spokesman said Sunday. Major Charles Hayes, a spokesman for the U.S. military's joint information bureau in Dhahran, added that the ammunition would be shipped back by April of next year. The United States has signed agreements with Kuwait and Bahrain to pre-position weapons as part of a security pact, and plans others with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council such as Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. But so far, Saudi Arabia has not appeared willing to allow pre-positioned equipment on its soil.

Tonga king visits Christian holy sites

LOD (AP) — King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga arrived Sunday on a three-day visit to Christian holy sites on the Jordan River. "Tonga has very good and friendly relations with Israel but also with the Arabs. We do not make discrimination," the king told reporters at Ben Gurion international airport. The king will also meet with Israeli President Chaim Herzog during his stay. He is accompanied by his wife, Queen Halaevalu Matz'aho. Mr. Herzog visited Tonga, a chain of 169 islands in the South Pacific, five years ago. The king will also travel to Italy to watch Tonga's national soccer team play the Italians.

Correction

Due to an inadvertent error, the Jordan Times, in its Nov. 10 issue, quoted Prime Minister Taha Masri as saying that Washington could be the best venue for holding Arab-Israeli multilateral talks. The prime minister had actually said that Washington could be the best venue for Arab-Israeli bilateral talks and that Jordan supports the idea of holding the multilateral talks very soon. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Palestinian delegates returning home get tumultuous welcome

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian peace negotiators returned to a jubilant welcome in the occupied territories Sunday and told hundreds of supporters waving olive branches that a new era has begun in the Middle East.

The Palestinian leaders announced they would form political committees to serve as the vanguard for a Palestinian government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Nothing can stop the Palestinian march to freedom," Faisal Husseini, head of the delegation's advisory committee, later said in a rare appearance on Israel Television. He spoke in Hebrew.

Mr. Husseini also suggested that the Palestinians would halt the stone-throwing attacks against troops and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories that have been a key element of the four-year Palestinian uprising.

"Until now, the intifada was with stones. Now, there is an intifada with olive branches. Now, if you want it, if the Israelis want it, the intifada can come with a new face," Mr. Husseini told Israel army radio.

The Palestinian delegates and advisers, travelling in two buses, returned to the West Bank from Jordan via the King Hussein Bridge.

Mr. Erekat, who lives in Jericho, was carried on the shoulders of admirers through the marketplace.

The army barred Palestinians from elsewhere in the occupied territories from reaching Jericho and joining the celebration. Army jeeps accompanied the delegation's buses from the bridge to Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, the delegates spoke before some 2,000 supporters at the Hakawati Theatre. Young men carried Mr. Husseini on their shoulders into the theatre singing "Biladi, Biladi, the anthem of Palestinian nationalism.

At the height of the intifada, moderate leaders like Mr. Husseini were sometimes criticised by young activists, who turned to more hardline factions like the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas. But the Madrid conference seems to have given the moderates the backing of most people in the occupied territories.

Delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi's nine-year-old daughter Zeinah, clutching a teddy bear and an olive branch, chanted "Palestine is Arab" and "we want peace," and motorists honked their horns in

joy.

Mr. Erekat, who lives in Jericho, was carried on the shoulders of admirers through the marketplace.

The army barred Palestinians from elsewhere in the occupied territories from reaching Jericho and joining the celebration. Army jeeps accompanied the delegation's buses from the bridge to Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, the delegates spoke before some 2,000 supporters at the Hakawati Theatre. Young men carried Mr. Husseini on their shoulders into the theatre singing "Biladi, Biladi, the anthem of Palestinian nationalism.

At the height of the intifada, moderate leaders like Mr. Husseini were sometimes criticised by young activists, who turned to more hardline factions like the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas. But the Madrid conference seems to have given the moderates the backing of most people in the occupied territories.

Delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi's nine-year-old daughter Zeinah, clutching a teddy bear and an olive branch, chanted "Palestine is Arab" and "we want peace," and motorists honked their horns in

(Continued on page 5)

Hizbullah says no role in AUB bomb

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah said Sunday the bombing of the American University of Beirut (AUB) was staged to frame his group.

"The whole world knows that this university has been within Hizbullah's reach for so many years if we wanted to attack it," Sheikh Abbas Musawi told a mass rally in Beirut in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

"Those who staged this cowardly act aimed at pushing Hizbullah into a corner where it would be framed as the culprit" Sheikh Musawi said.

The U.S.-affiliated university's administration building, clock tower and library were blown up by a car bomb explosion Friday. One person was killed and eight wounded. Damage was estimated at \$125 million.

No group has claimed responsibility. But the attack followed threats by pro-Iranian factions to strike at American interests.

'Shamir rejected expulsion of Palestinians while in Madrid'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A left-wing legislator said Sunday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir prevented the expulsion of five Palestinian activists on the first day of the Madrid peace conference.

Legislator Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement said Defense Minister Moshe Arens wanted to issue an order Oct. 30 to expel five Palestinians, but other officials insisted he consult Mr. Shamir at the peace talks.

The proposal came after an attack on a settler bus in the occupied West Bank two days earlier in which the bus driver and a settler woman were killed. A hardline Palestinian group later took responsibility for the attack.

When the proposal was put before Mr. Shamir in Madrid he immediately rejected it, Mr. Zucker added.

"I sent a letter to Shamir saying he should order his cabinet ministers to be sensitive and cautious with the steps they are taking, in order not to undermine the political effort by measures such as this," Mr. Zucker told the Associated Press.

"I added that his rejection of the proposal was a good example of how past measures should not be automatically adopted to new circumstances," Mr. Zucker said.

The daily Maariv said the five slated for expulsion were Palestinians from the West Bank.

Both the prime ministry and defense ministry declined comment on Mr. Zucker's report.

Increased support for land for peace

Also Sunday, the daily Al Hanan published a poll that found that 74 per cent of Israelis are willing to trade land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace, and 31 per cent are willing to make similar concessions on the Golan Heights.

The poll, carried out by the Institute for Regional Research, questioned 80,766 Israelis at their homes Oct. 6-20. The margin of error was less than half a per cent.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS ARCHBISHOP: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives the archbishop of the Australian city of Sydney, Dr. Ronald Robinson, for a review of the problems of the Middle East. Prince Hassan also discussed with the guest the problems facing Jordan and the humanitarian aid Jordan needs to alleviate the sufferings and concerns of the returnees who streamed into the country during the Gulf crisis. The Crown Prince also discussed with Dr. Robinson the importance of inter-faith dialogue. The meeting was attended by Australian Ambassador to Jordan Bob Bowker (Petra photo).

Chechens defiant against Yeltsin

GROZNY, the Soviet Union (AP) — Nationalists in the secessionist Chechen-Ingush region

blocked rail and air routes into their southern Russian territory Sunday, fearing troops will try to enforce Boris Yeltsin's emergency rule.

Meanwhile, protesters reportedly were gathering in the capital's Freedom Square — one week after the mostly Muslim region declared independence from the Russian Republic.

Mr. Yeltsin says he will not allow his federation, home to scores of ethnic groups, to disintegrate. He decreed the imposition of emergency rule, beginning Saturday, which banned rallies, ordered weapons impounded and took over Chechen-Ingushetia's government for one month.

In Moscow, Russian legislators planned a special session Sunday to endorse President Yeltsin's emergency rule in the region of 1.3 million people. Bunt the decree was protested by Mr. Yeltsin's interior minister in the territory, Chechen native Vakha Ibragimov, who resigned in disagreement, government-run Russia Rossiya Radio reported.

Mr. Yeltsin's hand-picked interim administrator, Ahmad Arsanov, reportedly said Saturday the emergency should be lifted.

The radio said the defectors decreased chances that troops would enforce Mr. Yeltsin's decree. That could leave the Rus-

(Continued on page 5)

Government promises to study problems faced by industries over new tax, collection

Minister to review consumer tax and 'draconian measures'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with an angry reaction by Jordanian industrialists who rose up in arms against the recent imposition of new consumer tax, the government Sunday appeared to have adopted a conciliatory stand with a promise to study and address their problems.

"I do not know on what basis they are complaining," said Finance Minister Bassem Jardaneh, adding that he had not seen a petition submitted to Prime Minister Taha Masri by the industrialists.

"But we are ready to review their problems and consider appropriate action," he told the Jordan Times, adding that he was meeting with a representative group of Jordanian industrialists on Wednesday.

The finance minister reiterated that the government's policy of encouraging exports and developing local industries remained unchanged.

Mr. Jardaneh also said the government was considering additional incentives to export-oriented industries. He did not elaborate.

Jordanian industrialists have gone public with their opposition not only to the 10 per cent consumer tax (value added tax — VAT) and a government-proposed procedure to collect the tax but also a decrease in customs duties on a series of imported products classified as "essential."

Although no official would confirm it, it is widely believed that the imposition of consumer tax is part of an agreement that the government has reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure the Kingdom's economy.

Scarce details are available on the discussions between the government and the IMF, but the main thrust of any related measure will be to reduce the fiscal budget deficit by increasing revenues and cutting down govern-

ment expenditure.

No figures are available yet on the amount the government expects to raise as consumer tax.

Speaker after speaker at a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry building on Saturday left off angry outbursts over the VAT and argued that any such increases in prices for the consumer were unacceptable given the rising cost of living in the Kingdom.

The importance and seriousness with which the industrialists view the situation were evident in the words of Ahmad Ghneim, who spoke on behalf of clearance and follow-up agents in Jordan.

"If the Chamber of Industry cannot address and find a solution to the problem," said Mr. Ghneim, "we might as well pack up and go home."

Particularly disturbing to manufacturers of low-priced consumer products such as chocolates and biscuits was

(Continued on page 5)

Kaddoumi in Cairo; meeting with Saud possible

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iran agreed Sunday to supply fresh water to the Gulf state of Qatar via a 1,800-kilometre pipeline, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said the agreement was signed at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Tehran by Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Al Thani. Four other agreements for cooperation in education, labour, air transportation and trade were also signed, the radio said. It said Sheikh Hamad Al Thani was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Vice President Hassan Habibi. The radio said in a commentary that talks on the water project began two months ago. It said: "This project can not only provide the water for Qatar, but for the rest of the southern and Arab countries of the Gulf." A joint statement released simultaneously in Tehran and Doha condemned Israel's "incongruous policies" and called for regional countries to maintain Gulf security, the radio said. It also called for more cooperation between Iran and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"The United States has to prove its goodwill ... it promised to exert pressure on Israel to stop building settlements once and for all," said Mr. Kaddoumi. He did not say when or where Washington made such a promise.

Washington has called Jewish settlements in the occupied territories an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Kaddoumi also called on Washington to "show its appreciation for the flexible stand" the PLO had taken to facilitate the convening of the Middle East peace conference.

He did not elaborate but the PLO has urged Washington to resume contacts which were severed when the PLO failed to condemn a foiled raid on Israel last year by a hardline Palestinian faction.

Palestinian sources also said "quiet efforts" were underway to persuade the United States to reopen the PLO's information office in Washington.

Mr. Kaddoumi was due to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during his visit to discuss the second phase of the peace process and diplomats said he might also hold talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi Al Faisal.

Prince Saudi arrived in Cairo earlier on Sunday to attend talks Monday with his counterparts from Egypt, Syria and the five other Gulf Arab states on regional security arrangements.

Syria front's stand

Syria's ruling coalition accused Israel of trying to sabotage the Arab-Israeli peace talks which ended in Madrid last Monday, officials said Sunday.

A meeting of the National

(Continued on page 5)

ARAB BANK

Announces the opening of a new office in

Al-Rainbow St.

Banking services started on Saturday
9 November 1991

Al-Rainbow St.
P.O.Box 2711 / Jabal Amman
Tel : 613715, 613716
Fax : 613717

ARAB BANK
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SHMEISANI, AMMAN
P.O.BOX 956448, TELEPHONE: 660115, 660131
TELEX: 2891 ARABNK JO. FAX: 660793

Many Palestinians feel euphoria over peace prospects

BIR ZEIT, occupied West Bank (AP) — Jamile Abdul Hadi, 70, dares to dream about the future for the first time since Israeli occupation began 24 years ago.

If there is a peace agreement with Israel, she said with a broad smile, she will resume adult education classes at Bir Zeit University, now closed by the Israeli army, and bring home a son exiled by the military government.

Other Palestinians caution that the emotional high created by the Madrid peace talks may be short-lived. They say deep despair may follow unless the lot of Arabs in the occupied territories improves quickly.

Mrs. Abdul Hadi and the other comparative optimists have been gripped by euphoria since the Madrid talks, imagining for the first time in years what it would be like if the army withdraw and they could run their own lives.

They spin fantasies of opening a business, running for city council or voting for the first time. Many swelled with pride at the

television pictures of their delegates whisked in motorcades through the streets of the Spanish capital and sitting as equals with the Israeli occupiers.

"It was a great achievement ... after all these years in which Israel refused to deal with us," said Talal Zahran, 40, a contractor from the West Bank town of Nablus. "Now the whole world knows who the Palestinians are."

Ibrahim Dakak, a 62-year-old Palestinian philosopher, had a more sceptical view. "People are fed up with words and slogans. They want something very practical. Nothing has changed here since Madrid. We still have curfews, we have strikes, we have people being killed."

Generally, however, hope prevails.

"When I watched our Palestinian delegation, I felt this was a beginning, and that all our pain and suffering will come to an end." Mrs. Abdul Hadi told a visitor on the glass-enclosed porch of her home in Bir Zeit.

Her house was rebuilt from ruins. Soldiers blew it up in 1969, when one of her sons was convicted of planting a bomb that killed three Israelis.

"If there is to be peace, we must forget about the terrible things we did to each other," she said.

Several men who had gathered for a morning chat in Bir Zeit's central square seemed baffled when asked whether they had plans for life under self-rule. Their talk kept returning to hardships of the present, like tax raids and curfews.

"I can't tell you anything because peace is still just a dream," said Hanna Mussalem, 40, who runs a snack shop on the square.

When their initial reluctance had passed, the men spoke of the future with relish.

Mr. Mussalem said he would open a boarding house for university students, run for the city council and be the one to hoist the Palestinian flag atop the town hall.

Mahmoud Abdul Lafi, a tailor,

wants to design his own line of clothing for export and take an active role in municipal affairs.

"We need to build gardens and swimming pools here; we need to build our Palestine," said Mr. Lafi, 53.

Some Palestinians doubt the peace talks will produce tangible results. They cite the hardline taken by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, who had said the Palestinians can hope for only limited autonomy.

Israel's continuing practice of settling Jews in the occupied territories makes Palestinians fear settlers will take all the land and force them to leave. So far, no settlements have been built near Bir Zeit.

Muslim fundamentalists and followers of hardline Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions call the talks a sellout. They have threatened to kill Palestinian delegates and increase violence against the army.

"We asked them if they want peace and they said 'yes,'" the boy recalled, his face beaming.

when the Madrid conference began, three Palestinians have been killed in clashes with soldiers and three were slain by other Arabs on suspicion of being informers.

Still, the atmosphere has softened. In dozens of peace marches in the last two weeks, Palestinian teenagers who used to throw stones chanted "We want peace" and handed olive branches to often-perplexed Israeli soldiers.

Some of the demonstrations were organised by local activists, apparently to score points during the conference, but others appeared spontaneous.

Fadi Mughrabi, a 10-year-old from Bethlehem, said he and his friends were playing soccer in a field last Monday when they saw a jeep passing and began chanting "we want peace."

Three soldiers got out of the jeep, smiled at the children and joined the soccer game, Fadi said.

"We asked them if they want peace and they said 'yes,'" the boy recalled, his face beaming.

Second anti-drug caravan planned in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabian officials have announced they will organise a second nationwide anti-drug caravan to educate citizens and expatriates.

The first caravan in January 1990 visited 12 Saudi cities.

The organiser, the National Commission for Combating Drugs, said Saturday the second will be launched in October 1992 to coincide with the beginning of the next academic year.

Under the kingdom's laws, drug smugglers and dealers are beheaded by sword in line with the Islamic Sharia by which the kingdom rules.

According to drug combating department's acting director-general, Major General Ibrahim Al Maiman, drug smuggling into the kingdom has roughly halved since the country introduced capital punishment for the offenders in 1987.

Washington's worries over China's nuclear exports deepened last month when the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, unexpectedly declined to approve a move to sign Peking up for the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

China, which had earlier publicly promised to accede to the treaty, is the only major nuclear power which has not joined.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Oct. 31 that the proposal needed to be further studied by relevant committees and that China would sign the treaty "once the necessary procedures have been gone through."

China denies any nuclear cooperation with Iraq

PEKING (R) — China, the focus of mounting Western concern that it may recklessly be spreading the technology to build nuclear weapons, Sunday officially denied it had any nuclear cooperation with Iraq.

China neither has any nuclear

cooperation with Iraq nor transfers it to any nuclear materials, nuclear technology or nuclear equipment," a Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the official New China News Agency.

"According to the reports in

some foreign press, it is the companies of some Western countries that have sold relevant technologies, equipment and materials to Iraq," the spokesman said in response to a reporter's question.

A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has been investigating IRAQ'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME, SAID Friday that Iraq had tested key parts of a nuclear bomb just months before its invasion of Kuwait, but could not have produced a complete weapon.

Peking, bombarded by Western news reports linking it with suspected nuclear weapons programmes in third countries, has stepped up its denials, saying repeatedly that its nuclear cooperation programmes are purely for peaceful purposes.

Last month, in response to

reports saying CHINA MIGHT BE GIVING Iran technology capable of producing nuclear weapons, the Foreign Ministry said China did have a nuclear cooperation programme with

Allies left radioactive waste on Gulf battlefield, report says

LONDON (AP) — Chemical and radioactive waste left on the Gulf war battlefield is a threat to health of thousands of Kuwaitis as well as British and other Western clean-up team, a newspaper said Sunday.

The allied armies left at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium in tens of thousands of armour piercing rounds fired at Iraqi vehicles from U.S. aircraft and British and U.S. tanks during the conflict, the newspaper said.

Correspondence began several months ago, and the authority has emphasised the environmental dangers of depleted uranium and the necessity of cleaning it up, the spokesman said.

"As of now, as far as I am aware, there is no contract between us for us to do this work," he added.

Preachers, psychologists, social experts and college professors will give lectures.

"There will be specific areas in which many rounds will have been fired where localised contamination of vehicles and the soil may exceed permissible limits and these could be hazardous to clean-up teams and the local population," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

"If DU (depleted uranium) gets in the food chain or water system, this will create potential health problems."

An AEA spokesman could not in an interview confirm the existence of the report.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said the authority had contacted Royal Ordnance, the private Ministry of Defence munitions supplier responsible for clearing the British sector of the battlefield.

The allied armies left at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium in tens of thousands of armour piercing rounds fired at Iraqi vehicles from U.S. aircraft and British and U.S. tanks during the conflict, the newspaper said.

Correspondence began several months ago, and the authority has emphasised the environmental dangers of depleted uranium and the necessity of cleaning it up, the spokesman said.

"As of now, as far as I am aware, there is no contract between us for us to do this work," he added.

The Independent on Sunday said the AEA report was prepared in April by decontamination specialists working for AEA technology, the commercial arm of the authority.

The newspaper said the authority offered at that time to send a team to the Gulf to identify the size of the problem and devise a clean-up plan, but after six months no action has been taken.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said it was unaware of having received such a report. Royal Ordnance was not available for comment.

An 'enemy' could have killed Maxwell — widow

LONDON (R) — The widow of international media tycoon Robert Maxwell says she thought an enemy might have killed him, while his doctor described his death as very strange.

The burly publisher disappeared from his yacht in the Atlantic on Tuesday and his naked body was found hours later in the sea off Spain's Canary Islands. An initial autopsy suggested a heart attack.

Mr. Maxwell cannot move to disbar Hizbullah, as he did in July against a weakened PLO, without risking a split in his Syrian-backed government.

Some cabinet ministers openly sympathise with the guerrillas — although their campaign dooms the battered south to yet another cycle of violence.

Maxwell did not have a heart condition and was in good health.

Spanish authorities released Mr. Maxwell's body Wednesday after post-mortem autopsy findings indicated he died of natural causes, possibly a heart attack.

The death certificate stated he died of cardio-respiratory arrest.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Joseph said: "There is no sign of a heart attack per se. It was just an informed guess."

"It was very unusual that he should drop dead where he was and then fall down into the water. How did he fall down?" Dr. Joseph told the newspaper.

"It is very, very strange. I think it is suspicious that Maxwell was on the back of the boat and nobody would have heard or seen him."

Japan to join multilateral Mideast talks, U.S. says

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE, Alaska (R) — Japan has told the United States it wants to be involved in multilateral peace talks on Middle East regional issues, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will discuss this and other issues with new Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Tokyo Monday as Washington seeks to assure foreign policy coordination between the two economic giants.

"This trip really does represent a move into the post-cold war era ... with both leaderships committed to trying to work out more active patterns of consultation," said the senior official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Washington has urged Japan to expand its global role but wants to assure this is "well-coordinated with the United States," the official added.

Mr. Baker is en route to Tokyo, the first stop on a nine-

day Asian tour that will test U.S. policy in an economically powerful region that critics say the administration of President George Bush has ignored.

Mr. Baker will also visit South Korea and China. He was last in all three countries in 1989.

Reporters on Mr. Baker's airplane were briefed on the flight from the Hague, where Mr. Baker and President Bush held talks with European leaders, to Tokyo. The plane made a refuelling stop in Alaska.

"The Japanese have ... expressed interest in the multilateral aspects" of the U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts which began in Madrid two weeks ago, the official said.

He did not say exactly how Tokyo might fit in.

Multilateral talks on Middle East issues like water and arms control are the third step in the peace process that began with the Madrid conference and are to

move next to bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Japan's interest in the process

derives from its energy dependence on the region, its interest in new markets and the fact that it wants to become "a global player" politically to match its economic strength, the U.S. official said.

No specific accords are expected from the Tokyo meetings.

At each Asian stop Mr. Baker will make, trade frictions boom but they may be strongest in Japan, whose trade surplus with United States is again on the rise.

In Tokyo, trade and the structure of the global economy will be major issues because "neither we nor the Japanese want to see the world organised in regional trading blocs," the official said.

Japan is expected to go along with Washington's proposal for expanded structural trade talks.

Afghan rebel team in Moscow in new peace bid

MOSCOW (R) — A delegation representing some of the main Afghan rebel groups flew to Moscow Sunday for fresh talks on ending the 13-year old civil war.

Delegation leader Burhanuddin Rabbani told TASS news agency on arrival he hoped the political changes in the Soviet Union would lead Moscow to support the peace process in Afghanistan.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is due to meet Mr. Rabbani's delegation, said Saturday the visit was aimed at "launching the peace process in Afghanistan."

But he made clear Moscow wanted to focus on the fate of Soviet servicemen captured during the war. About 300 soldiers remain unaccounted for after the nine-year Soviet military intervention and Moscow believes dozens may be still alive.

Mr. Rabbani told TASS he sympathised with the families of the missing men and would seek a mutually satisfactory solution. He said one former prisoner-of-war, an Uzbek, called Ulcham Yusupov, was now in Saudi Arabia and had not decided whether to return to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rabbani told a news conference in Saudi Arabia earlier that Moscow was still sending weapons.

The Soviet leadership has changed its policies in various areas," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

"But concerning Afghanistan it is still supporting the mercenary government."

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is due to meet Mr. Rabbani's delegation, said Saturday the visit was aimed at "launching the peace process in Afghanistan."

But he made clear Moscow wanted to focus on the fate of Soviet servicemen captured during the war. About 300 soldiers remain unaccounted for after the nine-year Soviet military intervention and Moscow believes dozens may be still alive.

Mr. Rabbani told TASS he sympathised with the families of the missing men and would seek a mutually satisfactory solution. He said one former prisoner-of-war, an Uzbek, called Ulcham Yusupov, was now in Saudi Arabia and had not decided whether to return to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rabbani told a news conference in Saudi Arabia earlier that Moscow was still sending weapons.

The Soviet leadership has changed its policies in various areas," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

"But concerning Afghanistan it is still supporting the mercenary government."

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is due to meet Mr. Rabbani's delegation, said Saturday the visit was aimed at "launching the peace process in Afghanistan."

But he made clear Moscow wanted to focus on the fate of Soviet servicemen captured during the war. About 300 soldiers remain unaccounted for after the nine-year Soviet military intervention and Moscow believes dozens may be still alive.

Mr. Rabbani told TASS he sympathised with the families of the missing men and would seek a mutually satisfactory solution. He said one former prisoner-of-war, an Uzbek, called Ulcham Yusupov, was now in Saudi Arabia and had not decided whether to return to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rabbani told a news conference in Saudi Arabia earlier that Moscow was still sending weapons.

The Soviet leadership has changed its policies in various areas," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

"But concerning Afghanistan it is still supporting the mercenary government."

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is due to meet Mr. Rabbani's delegation, said Saturday the visit was aimed at "launching the peace process in Afghanistan."

But he made clear Moscow wanted to focus on the fate of Soviet servicemen captured during the war. About 300 soldiers remain unaccounted for after the nine-year Soviet military intervention and Moscow believes dozens may be still alive.

Mr. Rabbani told TASS he sympathised with the families of the missing men and would seek a mutually satisfactory solution. He said one former prisoner-of-war, an Uzbek, called Ulcham Yusupov, was now in Saudi Arabia and had not decided whether to return to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rabbani told a news conference in Saudi Arabia earlier that Moscow was still sending weapons.

The Soviet leadership has changed its policies in various areas," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

"But concerning Afghanistan it is still supporting the mercenary government."

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is due to meet Mr.

Journalists criticised for speaking to Israeli media at peace conference

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian journalist has been expelled from the Jordanian Writers' Federation (JWF) for allowing himself to be interviewed by the Israeli media during the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid last week.

Another columnist, coming under fire for the same charges, announced Sunday that he was stopping his column until further notice.

Suleiman Hattab, a columnist at the Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i and the former chief editor of Sawt Al Shabab, and Tawfiq Abu Bakr of Al Dusour had also come under criticism from the Jordan Writers' Society, of which they are not members.

The decision to expel Mr. Hattab was taken Sunday, according to the deputy chief of the JWF, Dideh Rifa'i.

"Mr. Hattab's membership has been withdrawn and he is no longer a member of the federation as of Sunday," Mr. Rifa'i was quoted as saying. "This is a moral punishment for Mr. Hattab for his contacts with Israel," he told the Associated Press.

What remained unclear was whether Mr. Hattab was indeed a member of the federation, which had faded into the background after the Jordan Writers' Society reemerged as part of the democratisation process under way in Jordan.

The "federation was set up as an alternative to the 'society' in 1988 after the then government headed by Zaid Rifai suspended the latter, which was perceived to be dominated by leftist writers."

The society was revived in early 1990 when the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran lifted the suspension. Lost in the bargain was the influence exerted by the JWF. Apparently, Mr. Hattab was considered a member by the JWF since he did not become a member of the revived Jordan Writers' Society.

Concluded by the Jordan Times, Mr. Hattab declined direct comment on the JWF's decision. "I would not like to make any comment now," he said. However, he added, "I am continuing my column in Al Ra'i and I can defend myself." Mr. Hattab's daily column has been absent from the newspaper over the past two weeks.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said the ministry had no plan whatsoever to interfere in the matter, although he described it as "political" in nature.

"It is an independent union and it is free to do what it decides under its laws and procedures," Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times. "The Ministry of Information has nothing to do with it and does not plan to interfere in the matter."

Mr. Sharif said Mr. Hattab had contacted him complaining that he was not a member of the JWF. "If that is indeed the case, I hope the federation has taken into consideration the proper procedures," the minister said.

The controversy started when Mr. Hattab, who was among the Jordanian media team attending the Madrid conference, was interviewed by Israeli Television.

The interview was seen by many Jordanian writers, both leftist and rightist, as violating the code of conduct which calls for shunning all contacts with the Israeli media.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Produce exports JD 8.88m in October

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits in October stood at 31,200 tonnes with an estimated cost of about JD 8.88 million, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO). Vegetables constituted about 93.5 per cent of the total amount of the kingdom's agricultural exports, bringing about JD 8.38 million in hard currency into the country. Exports of vegetables and fruits in October, dropped by about 6,500 tonnes compared to September, and an increase of about 12,900 tonnes compared to October, 1990. The AMO said 43.6 per cent of the exports went to Iraq, 24.1 per cent to the United Arab Emirates, 13.4 per cent to Saudi Arabia, 12.1 per cent to Bahrain, 6.4 per cent to Qatar and 0.3 per cent to Kuwait.

JD 10m for agriculture and village roads

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Housing and Public Works Saad Hayel Al Srour has said that the ministry has allocated JD 10 million in the 1992 budget for agricultural and village roads. At a meeting with directors of public works at the various governorates, Mr. Srour said the amount will be divided equally between agricultural and village roads. He noted that the amount will be distributed among the various governorates.

Exhibition opens of maps, photos

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein Sunday opened an exhibition of air and space maps and photographs organised by the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in cooperation with Yarmouk University's Public Relations Department. The four-day exhibition, held at Yarmouk University, includes maps, samples produced by traditional and modern techniques, digital maps on water, soil, buildings, terrain, roads and public services, and topographic, geological and touristic maps. The exhibition also includes advanced equipment used for survey and aerial photography.

Kabbari receives French delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdal Kader Al Kabbari Sunday received the director of the Social and Humanitarian Sciences Department at the French Foreign Ministry and members of a team from the French Archaeology Institute on the Middle East. Mr. Kabbari thanked the French government for its continuous support of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and briefed them on the ministry's projects.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is greeted by a patient at a family planning centre. Princess Basma Sunday toured various centres and inspected the services they provide (Petra photo)

Princess tours family planning clinics

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday met the Jordan Family Planning Society (JFPS) president and society officials and discussed means of promoting family planning services in Jordan.

JFPS President Anwar Hadid

briefed the princess on the society's programmes and activities over the coming five years.

Princess Basma urged Mr. Hadid and his team to organise more seminars to help spread awareness among members of the public about the need for family planning services.

"I did not do anything wrong," he said. "I neither praised Israel nor called for establishing bilateral relations with Israel."

Hasheem Khrisat president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), who was also in Madrid for the conference, denied reports that the JPA was considering expelling Mr. Hattab.

"No such measure is being considered," Mr. Khrisat, who is also chief editor of Sawt Al Shabab, told the Jordan Times.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhi Kawar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

The theme that media interaction

Sports

Ito beats Yamaguchi in figure skating competition

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — Midori Ito of Japan completed an improvised one in the last 10 seconds to overtake world champion Kristi Yamaguchi and win the Lalique trophy Saturday, a winter Olympic prep event.

Yamaguchi, who led a American medal sweep at March's World Championships in Munich, Germany, led after the original programme but fell once during her free skate portion — performed to Spanish music and which counts for two-third of the final score — and finished second.

Later Saturday, three-time world champion Kurt Browning of Canada rallied to win the men's event, beating Soviet Vacheslav Zagorodnik.

Ito received a perfect mark of 6.0 from one of the nine judges for technical merit. Her programme, which received marks ranging from 5.7 to 5.9, included a very difficult triple axel-double toe loop combination.

"Today's performance was only about 70 per cent of what I was trying for," Ito said. "I still

hope to improve my combination triple jumps."

Nancy Kerrigan of the United States was third, duplicating her finish at the World Championship when she finished behind Yamaguchi and Tonya Harding, who was not entered here.

"I think I was placed where I should have been," Yamaguchi said. "There were a couple of mistakes that should not have been there."

"I am happy with my performance," she said. "If it is as good enough for a silver medal here, it was OK."

Ito's World Championship hopes were set back when she bruised her ribs and fell over a board in two separate accidents in Munich.

"After my bitter experience in the World Championships I had to change the position of my jumps," Ito said.

Alexei Urmanov won the men's free skate, but it was His Browning who was able to skate well enough to overtake Zagorodnik, who won Friday's original programme.

Urmanov completed a clean quadruple jump and a fine triple

axel in his programme giving him third overall.

Browning followed his second-best Friday routine with another second-best performance, good enough for victory. He was not spectacular, skating a conservative long programme Saturday with just two triple jumps.

Urmanov completed five triples and the quad.

The Canadian showed the results of a back problem, brought on by an ankle injury.

Several of the top men did not compete in the weekend competition due to injury.

Viktor Petrenko of Soviet Union, twice second to Browning, was absent with a foot problem as was American champion Todd Eldredge, who won a bronze medal at the World Championships.

Last year, Seles beat a pained Navratilova in straight sets and shortly thereafter Navratilova underwent knee surgery. Seles went on to become No. 1 in the world in March 1991, a spot she has surrendered only briefly since to Germany's Steffi Graf.

This year, Seles has lost only five matches, but one was against Navratilova earlier in the year. Seles has won her last two encounters.

Seles, a Yugoslav who lives in the United States, beat the 10th-ranked Maleeva Fragniere in 53 minutes. She broke the hard-serving native of Bulgaria at 1-all in the first set with deep, corner to corner shots. Maleeva Fragniere was also broken in the seventh game.

In the second set Maleeva Fragniere's game crumbled even more. She had 28 unforced errors in the match to 14 for Seles and managed to get in only 48 per cent of her first serves.

"I couldn't get into a good rhythm," Maleeva Fragniere said.

The victory over McNeil was No. 1,317 for Navratilova, who added to her own record after surpassing Chris Evert's previous standard of 1,309 a month ago in Milan.

Now Navratilova tries to equal Evert's record of 157 tournament titles.

"I know I'm going to break it, even I have to play the Virginia Slims of Oklahoma," Navratilova said.

With the players on serve in the first set, McNeil served two straight double faults at 3-4, allowing Navratilova to easily

Seles, Navratilova to meet in Oakland final

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Displaying contrasting styles, top-seeded and top-ranked Monica Seles and No. 2 seed Martina Navratilova advanced into the Virginia Slims of California final, setting up a repeat of last year's title match.

Seles, who turns 18 next month, defeated No. 3 seed Manuela Maleeva Fragniere of Switzerland 6-2, 6-1 in another awesome display of unrelenting baseline firepower that has no equal in women's tennis.

Navratilova handily defeated Lori McNeil of the United States 6-3, 6-2 to reach her fourth consecutive final on the tour.

Last year, Seles beat a pained Navratilova in straight sets and shortly thereafter Navratilova underwent knee surgery. Seles went on to become No. 1 in the world in March 1991, a spot she has surrendered only briefly since to Germany's Steffi Graf.

This year, Seles has lost only five matches, but one was against Navratilova earlier in the year. Seles has won her last two encounters.

Seles, a Yugoslav who lives in the United States, beat the 10th-ranked Maleeva Fragniere in 53 minutes. She broke the hard-serving native of Bulgaria at 1-all in the first set with deep, corner to corner shots. Maleeva Fragniere was also broken in the seventh game.

In the second set Maleeva Fragniere's game crumbled even more. She had 28 unforced errors in the match to 14 for Seles and managed to get in only 48 per cent of her first serves.

"I couldn't get into a good rhythm," Maleeva Fragniere said.

The victory over McNeil was No. 1,317 for Navratilova, who added to her own record after surpassing Chris Evert's previous standard of 1,309 a month ago in Milan.

Now Navratilova tries to equal Evert's record of 157 tournament titles.

"I know I'm going to break it, even I have to play the Virginia Slims of Oklahoma," Navratilova said.

With the players on serve in the first set, McNeil served two straight double faults at 3-4, allowing Navratilova to easily



Martina Navratilova

Frankfurt hangs on to lead in Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Ghana international Anthony Yeboah struck a late equaliser to enable Eintracht Frankfurt to draw 1-1 against Karlsruhe and stay top of second-placed Kaiserslautern.

Defending champions Kaiserslautern bounced back from their European Cup exit at the hands of Barcelona Wednesday by dispatching Hansa Rostock 3-0.

Stefan Kuntz put Kaiserslautern in front after 31 minutes and fellow striker Demir Hotic extended the lead in the 62nd minute. Midfielder Uwe Scheir completed the tally two minutes from time.

Gordon's double starts to repay Rangers

LONDON (Agencies) — Dale Gordon quickly repaid part of his £1.2 million (\$2.1 million) transfer fee when he scored twice in Glasgow Rangers' 5-0 thrashing of Dumferline in his Scottish premier division debut Saturday.

The former Norwich midfielder also laid on two other goals, setting up the first with a perfect cross to Richard Gough after only five minutes.

Almost on the half-hour he slotted home his first from a difficult angle and soon after the

Kasparov wins tie-break

in speed chess tournament

PARIS (R) — World Champion Garry Kasparov defeated Soviet Alexander Khalifman in tie-break in the Speed Chess Masters Tournament to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Both 50-minute games ended in draws, setting up an 11-minute blitz tie-break in which Kasparov was able to smother Khalifman's pieces.

Invigorated by his performance at the Dutch Tilburg tournament last week, his first victory in 1991, Kasparov wants to confirm his superiority in all kinds of chess, classical or fast.

"I can win any match," he told reporters before the Paris tournament.

Rising French star Joel Lautier, 18, was earlier edged out in a tense match against world number four Evgeny Bareev of the Soviet Union.

"It was in some difficulty in the first game," Short said after the match.

After salvaging a draw, Short won the second game with the white pieces, taking his opponent by surprise with subtle, unclassical moves.

The west's top chess player, Nigel Short of Great Britain, reached the quarterfinals of the tournament after beating Michael Gurevich of the Soviet Union.

"I was in some difficulty in the first game," Short said after the match.

After salvaging a draw, Short won the second game with the white pieces, taking his opponent by surprise with subtle, unclassical moves.

Two 50-minute games make up each match, according to the knock-out formula.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SHOW AND TELL

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ A J 5
7
K Q 8 6 5
♦ Q J 4 2
WEST EAST
A K Q 10 9 ♦ J 8 6 4 3 2
J 10 7 4 A 9
♦ 10 9 8 7 5 3
SOUTH
♦ K Q 10 9 8 6 3 2
5
3 2
A K
The bidding:
West North East South
1 NT Dbl 4 6 ♦
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦.

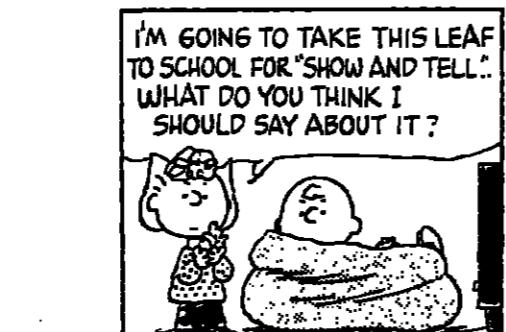
Signaling is delicate art. At trick one the opening leader's partner usually finds it indicates attitude: a high card shows approval of the suit, low suggests that the leader search for greener pastures. Very few experts show count at the first trick except against high-level contracts, where it might be essential to know whether a second round of the suit will live. When dummy shows up with a singleton in the suit led, or where it is clear that declarer cannot hold more than one card in the suit, third hand has the rare opportunity for a suit-preference signal. A high

card in the suit led suggests a switch to the higher of the other two plain suits; the lowest calls for the lower. Any middle card asks for a continuation.

Just how important that can be is illustrated by this hand. West took advantage of the vulnerability to make a light opening bid. North doubled in action we endorse, despite the fact that a first spade would have been preferred, and East upped the ante with his distributional holding. As a result South, with probably the best hand at the table in terms of playing strength, had to act with the auction already in the stratosphere and no good bid available (four no trump would be a takeout for the minors, not ace-asking). So South elected to blast into six spades. In a way, North was too strong — had the king-queen of diamonds been the 10, the team would have easily bid six spades.

The crux of the hand came at the very first trick. West led the king of hearts and East had to convince partner to shift to a diamond — anything else would have been fatal to the defense. With the singleton heart in dummy, there was no problem — East dropped the jack under the king, a clear request for a diamond shift rather than a club. West duly obliged, and the defenders had their two tricks in the bag. Down one.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You

will be able to strut a bit this morning and afternoon if you feel like it and get the praise and encouragement you need in order to put those big plans into motion. Watch for delays.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to see what you can do in order to make your down to earth dreams come true so be sure that you do handle material interests intelligently.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind that can bring to light the various personal ambitions that most powerfully impel you can be put in motion now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have many little odds and ends to do to complete matters already put in effect as well as prepare for the future by gaining specific data from experts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a day for you to be with good friends and interesting acquaintances as much as possible so be sure to get out to socialize.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look to what you need to do in order to please and delight those who have it in their power to grant you some worldly assistance that you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) On this day make sure that you get some fresh new uncomplicated ideas by which you can extend your

interests far beyond their present boundaries.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to be as exact and particular as possible where the many promises you have made are concerned and you are able to show devotion to attachment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can reach that accord with allies that has been difficult to obtain so get in touch with your close associates and let them know your aims.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you can get into those various tasks requiring both speed and accuracy that comprise an integral part of the duties you have to do.

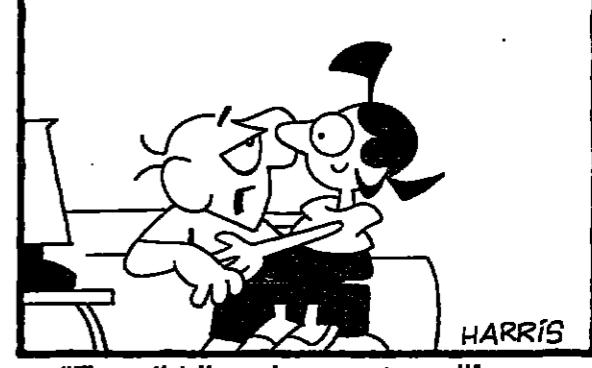
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is that moment for you to be sure to make appointments at the entertainments that bring you a feeling of happiness and enjoyment to all.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you would be wise to do that can make your days more productive is good even though you find that you need to show more care with dull drudgeries.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you are able to see for yourself what is needed to reduce your ideas to a successful issue so get busy on the material and practical phases of any ideas.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Ear nibbling does not qualify as before-dinner munchies!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INGEF

BLEAC

RETAUN

TABLLE

Answer here: TO BE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FEVER RUSTY HAWKER CLUMSY

Answer: What a person who puts all his faith in a fortune-teller probably is — A "SEER" SUCKER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

U.N. to cost

United Nations to cost

Financial
Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 4 - November 8, 1991)

AMMAN — Trading remained subdued during most of last week's trading sessions. Dealers avoided establishing new positions in view of the prevailing negative dollar sentiment and lack of substantive news items. The widely anticipated Fed interest rate cut finally materialised, surprising markets in its timing but, nevertheless, leaving a muted impact on prices. The U.S. market ended the week marginally higher against the major currencies.

The dollar dropped significantly Monday and Tuesday as bearish sentiment remained strong. Although it rallied briefly during Tuesday's trading hours on news that the USSR might face difficulty in repaying its Western debts, the U.S. currency soon retreated as negative sentiment overpowered safe haven buying. Expectations were unanimous on a dollar interest rate cut by Fed, but diverged on the timing issue. The dollar closed Monday at its lowest against the yen at 129.25 yen to the dollar.

Wednesday took the dollar to its lowest closing levels Friday. Observers maintained that technical considerations lay behind its rise as most traders waited for it to either break through resistance, or fall through support levels before establishing new positions. Trading, therefore, remained subdued as the U.S. currency breached neither resistance at 1.65 marks, nor support at 1.6250 marks to the dollar.

For this week, market participants await the release of a number of U.S. economic reports to shed more light on the state of the U.S. economic recovery. While most observers are not optimistic about the results, expectations, however, point to range trading in bands of 1.6250-1.6650 marks, and 130.00-131.20 yen, as support at 1.6250 marks is expected to hold.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	1/11/91 Close	2/11/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound ²	1.7675	1.7647	(0.16%)
Deutsche Mark	1.6445	1.6465	(0.12%)
Swiss Franc	1.4435	1.4535	(0.69%)
French Franc	5.6235	5.6295	(0.11%)
Japanese Yen	129.75	130.38	(0.48%)

USD Per STG
Euro-Currency Interest Rates³

Currency	1/11/91		2/11/91	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.95	5.18	4.75	5.06
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.06	10.57	10.06
Deutsche Mark	8.95	9.25	8.87	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.18	7.50	7.81
French Franc	8.93	9.18	9.18	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.27	5.65	6.25	5.62

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 10/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2067	1.2127
Deutsche Mark	0.4152	0.4175
Swiss Franc	0.4708	0.4732
French Franc	0.1215	0.1221
Japanese Yen ²	0.5250	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3685	0.3703
Swedish Krona	0.1137	0.1143
Italian Lira ²	0.0552	0.0555
Belgian Franc	0.02015	0.02025

* Per 100

U.N. oil embargo said to cost S.Africa heavily

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Overcoming the effects of a U.N. oil embargo against South Africa has cost that country between \$25 billion and \$30 billion during the last 12 years, according to a report by a U.N. monitoring group.

The group called for the ban to be maintained, pending the adoption of a non-racial democratic constitution, saying: "premature lifting of the oil embargo would be counter-productive for the

peaceful process in South Africa."

The 10-nation intergovernmental group to monitor the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa was set up by the U.N. General Assembly in 1986.

The assembly, whose resolutions are not mandatory, first called for an oil embargo in 1975 and strengthened it in subsequent years.

Brady backs still-lower U.S. interest rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has said that he favoured still lower interest rates to spur the sagging American economy.

"I think they can continue to come down," Mr. Brady said of interest rates on a television news programme after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, cut key short-term rates to levels not seen since the 1970s.

Mr. Brady indicated, however, that there was "some disagreement" on further rate cuts among senior economic advisers to President George Bush.

"Nobody can say for sure" which way the economy is heading now, he said. "But I think that lower interest rates, which would mean lower home (mortgage) payments for Americans and lower credit card charges, make sense to me."

Asked if he was confident the economy would avoid slipping back into the recession which took hold in July 1990, Mr. Brady said nobody ever knew for sure which way the economy was going and "nobody can say for sure now."

The government said last month the U.S. economy grew at a 2.4 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, technically ending a year of recession.

But subsequent reports on industrial production, housing starts and new car sales have indicated the recovery was faltering as of last month.

Because governors are becoming increasingly reluctant to ask for tax increases, Mr. Scheppeach

into an election year, the central bank Wednesday lowered its trend-setting discount rate a half a percentage point to 4.5 per cent, its lowest level in 18 years.

The governors' report and a companion survey by the National Association of State Budget Officers offered this evidence:

"30 states reported that tax collections in fiscal 1991, which ended on June 30 in most states, fell below estimates on which their budgets had been based. Twenty-nine states had to reconvene their legislatures to cut already enacted budgets by a cumulative \$7.5 billion.

General-fund spending, which covers most major programmes, grew by 4 per cent in 1991, compared with an average of eight per cent per year in the 1980s.

31 states raised taxes totalling \$15 billion for the current fiscal year, more than one-third of the increase coming from sales taxes. Taxes were raised \$10.3 billion in 26 states in fiscal 1991.

End-of-year budget balances, a sign of state economic health, dropped to their lowest point since 1983. The balances averaged 1.5 per cent of spending in 1991; 1.9 per cent is forecast for 1992, assuming economic recovery.

Even after the recession ends, Mr. Scheppeach said, the costs of medicare — a federal-state programme of medical care for the poor — and penal systems are likely to continue their rapid growth. Those programmes now take almost 20 cents of every

state's budget.

Medicaid spending is driven up by federal rules increasing eligibility for the programme, while spending for prison construction and other corrections projects often are mandated by the courts.

The share of state spending dedicated to medicare has increased from 10.2 per cent to 13.6 per cent of state budgets during the last five years," Mr. Scheppeach said. Costs of the programme have grown at least 20 per cent in each of the last two years. Medicaid has replaced higher education as the second largest state spending programme, behind elementary and secondary education.

As have other economic reports, the survey found the recession has hit hardest in the east. But as the period of no growth or slow growth continues, the report said, more states will fill the pinch.

"The bottom line is that 1992 is going to continue to be a very difficult year for states — perhaps the most difficult in the last decade," it concluded.



Nicholas Brady

Sudanese pound hits all-time low on rumours of further devaluation

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese pound plunged to an all-time low against the dollar Sunday on rumours that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wanted a further devaluation.

The government is likely to resist, arguing that the measures would further impoverish the Sudanese people, already in the world's

second-worst balance of payments.

But Sudan badly needs balance of payments support from the fund. An IMF agreement could also unlock credits from the international community.

The country owes more than \$13 billion, about \$2 billion of them in arrears to the fund itself.

The IMF has not given Sudan credit since 1984, when it declared Sudan ineligible for loans because of the arrears and the government's failure to adopt an acceptable reform package.

The fund declared Sudan bankrupt in 1986 and last year it opened the way for its expulsion by declaring it uncooperative.

The government is expected to argue that it cannot cut expenditure because of the war in the south, which is costing Khartoum more than 11 million pounds (\$730,000) a day. It says the war with the southern rebels was forced upon it.

Survey explodes Japanese work ethic as myth

SYDNEY (R) — A major survey of attitudes in Europe, the United States and Asia has found that Japanese workers feel the most dissatisfied with various aspects of employment, particularly their wages and working conditions.

It exploded the myth that Australians have a poor attitude to work and the Japanese the best, according to Australian Professor Riaz Hassan, who prepared the survey in association with the International Survey Research Corporation of Chicago.

Workers in Singapore and Australia tend to be more positive to their work environment than their counterparts in the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan.

Professor Hassan said the study was the largest employee survey of its kind.

It covered nearly 150,000 employees in the United States, 96,000 in Britain, 30,000 in Germany, 41,000 in Australia, 3,000 in Singapore and 1,000 in Japan.

"Over the past 10 years, the attitudes of employees in Singapore have become more positive and they are followed in this respect by Australian employees," Dr. Hassan, professor of sociology at south Australia's Flinders University, said.

"The attitudes of Japanese employees in the same period have become significantly less positive," he said in a statement released by Flinders University.

The Japanese survey, though the smallest, was based on a random sample and was sufficient to provide a safe comparison, Dr. Hassan said. This was backed up by other data.

Dr. Hassan, who presented his findings at a conference of Asia Pacific personnel directors in Kuala Lumpur last week, said 90 per cent of Singaporeans felt their jobs were secure as long as they performed well.

In contrast only 66 per cent of Americans and 64 per cent of British workers felt secure.

In response to the survey's questions on working conditions, Australian and Singaporean employees were more confident that their pay was fair compared to others.

"The U.K. and Japanese employees feel least satisfied about their pay, with two out of every three feeling they are underpaid for what they do or are not paid fairly compared to others in their company," he pointed out.

Workers in Singapore and Australia were more satisfied with the operating efficiency of their companies than their counterpart in Japan and the United States.

International Research Survey Corporation specialises in employee surveys for large national and multinational organisations and includes among its clients 650 companies in 45 countries.

Another survey shows that the Japanese are the world's thriftiest savers, with an average \$45,118 (6,063,900 yen) banked per head of population in 1990.

The dollar equivalent represented an increase of almost 10 per cent over 1989 but the survey noted that the value of the yen against the dollar had risen by seven per cent in the same period.

Switzerland ranked second with \$19,971 (25,762 Swiss francs) of savings per head in 1990, followed by Denmark with \$18,405 (106,381 crowns) per head.

Others in the list of the world's top 10 savers, covering bank account savings only and converted at exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1990, were:

	Dollar Equivalent	National Currency
France	\$17,650	90,542 French francs
West Germany	\$17,042	25,392 Deutsche marks
Austria	\$16,369	174,822 Austrian schillings
Norway	\$15,196	89,808 Danish crowns
Belgium	\$15,111	468,152 Belgian francs
Singapore	\$14,492	25,216 Singapore dollars
Netherlands	\$14,282	24,136 Dutch guilders

The International Savings Bank Institute which made the survey said deposits with nearly 2,800 member banks around the world totalled about \$3,500 billion.

In a number of industrialised countries member banks accounted for between one-quarter and one-half of total savings and term deposits of the banking sector as a whole, it added.

CHALET FOR RENT

Fully furnished, opposite Jordan University. One floor: Kitchen, guest bath, dining, large reception. Other floor: 3 beds, 2 baths, large sitting, kitchen, very large well-arranged garden with separate 55 sq.m apartment. Chalet equipped with Jacuzzi, tel lines with exchange, electric gate, water well.

To view call 669785 (06:30-13:30).

CONCORD Cinema
Tel: 677420

Adel Imam in SHAMS AL ZANATI (Arabic)
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Tel: 675571

'SOMERSAULT TIME' PLAY
Starring 'Abu Awwad Family'
After the great success it achieved continues its shows daily at 8:30 p.m.
Please buy your tickets in advance

PHILADELPHIA Cinema<

Yugoslav navy blasts Dubrovnik; Vukovar on the verge of collapse

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslav navy gunboats shelled the besieged Croatian port of Dubrovnik Sunday and federal troops intensified their assaults on strategic towns in the rebel republic.

Croatian radio said two people died in Dubrovnik, where a luxury hotel was hit. Twenty Croatian soldiers were killed Saturday in fighting which was continuing around Karlovac only 50 kilometres south of Zagreb.

In eastern Croatia, defenders of the town of Vukovar on the Serbian border warned that it was on the brink of capture by the Serb-led federal army after an 11-week onslaught.

With Croatia's military situation deteriorating after four months of war and a third of its territory now controlled by the army and Serb guerrillas, the republic announced the imposition of press censorship.

It threatened jail terms of up to five years for journalists who revealed military secrets.

Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj scorned a call by Serbia and its allies in the collective Yugoslav presidency for the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force between Croatia and the Serb minority in the republic.

He described the four-member rump presidency, set up in October after Croatia and Slovenia boycotted the body, as "a bunch of usurpers."

Some 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of federal troops and Serb guerrillas have died in fighting since Croatia declared its independence in June along with the neighbouring Slovenia.

Croatia's population of 4.5 million includes 600,000 ethnic Serbs who oppose independence.

Reuter correspondent Andrej Gustinic reported from Dubrovnik that the port was heavily bombarded for the third successive day after its Croatian defenders ignored a federal ultimatum to surrender.

Two gunboats pounded the cliff-top Belvedere Hotel and artillery shells rained within 100 metres of the historic old town.

Croatian authorities ordered a total mobilisation in Dubrovnik, where the army said it captured one of three hills held by Croatian militia. The hills command the port's defences.

The rump Yugoslav presidency warned that the civil war in Croatia could spread to other parts of the country and said U.N. troops could form a buffer between the warring sides.

Croatia said it would not allow a U.N. deployment along the current front lines, where the guerrillas and the army have seized territory.

Mr. Salaj said the force would have to be stationed on Croatian borders as they existed previously.

Croatian radio said 20 people were hurt in the Dubrovnik bombardment which began at dawn.

It reported that 3,000 Yugoslav troops were also attacking the historic port which has been under heavy fire since Friday.

Eye-witnesses said the Libertas Hotel and houses around the Argentino Hotel were hit during attacks on the port Saturday in which gunboats and warplanes also took part.

Many local residents have fled

residents of Vukovar are believed to be trapped in the town, where federal forces have fought their way to within a few hundred metres of the centre.

It is Croatian defenders are defying a federal ultimatum to surrender and withdraw from strategic positions on three hills.

Zeljko Silic, president of the Dubrovnik City Council, said Croatian forces would not lay down their arms despite the intensity of the attacks by the Serb-led federal armed forces.

Federal forces ordered the Croats to withdraw from their three remaining strategic front-line positions, the hills of Srd, Bosanka and Nuncijato. This would leave the city wide open to attack.

Silic told reporters Saturday: "How could we withdraw? We would be fools to do so. We have told the army we adhere to the (latest) ceasefire and are not advancing."

Shelling Friday night knocked out the city's direct telephone and telex links with the outside world.

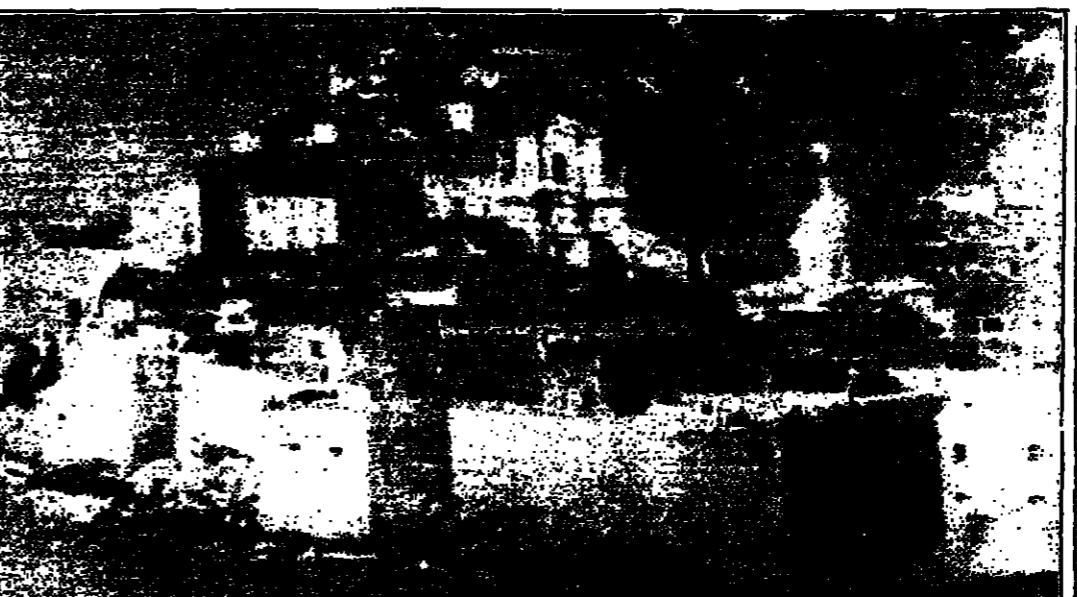
In a separate development, the Serb minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina voted Saturday on whether to secede from the ethnically mixed republic they share with Muslims and Croats.

The Serbs were expected to approve secession, which would heighten ethnic tensions in the republic and in the crumbling Yugoslav Federation, which is already scarred by violence in separatist Croatia.

The Serbs were expected to approve secession, which would heighten ethnic tensions in the republic and in the crumbling Yugoslav Federation, which is already scarred by violence in separatist Croatia.

The official, who asked not to be named, was travelling with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in Tokyo Sunday for talks with the new Japanese government.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Baker will find Japan still miffed by President George Bush's sudden postponement of a planned



The historic port of Dubrovnik in Croatia is still spared from the bombardment by the Yugoslav army.

U.S. may try to enlist Asian powers in talks with 2 Koreas

TOKYO (R) — The United States, building on positive trends in Asia, may try to bring the region's four major powers into reconciliation talks with North and South Korea, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

He said no concrete or detailed agreement had been reached but the proposal had gained new currency because of increased fear of nuclear proliferation and shared concerns about tensions on the Korean peninsula.

He called the armed standoff on the Korean peninsula "one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints... the very real danger of nuclear proliferation (there)... is now the number one threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific community."

Other officials said North Korea would figure prominently in Baker's talks during a nine-day tour that will also take him to

China and South Korea.

Communist North Korea, backed by China, and South Korea, a U.S. ally, have faced each other across a heavily militarised line since their war ended in 1953.

In recent years, however, the two Koreas have made tentative moves toward establishing new ties.

As the North-South dialogue progresses, we will explore the possibilities for a forum for the two Koreas and the four major powers in North East Asia," Mr. Baker wrote.

A forum would support dialogue, help ease tensions, facilitate discussion of common security concerns and possibly guarantee accords negotiated between the two Koreas, he added.

More bodies found as Aquino hands cheques to flood survivors

ORMOC, Philippines (R) — Rescuers Sunday pulled out six-day-old corpses from houses swamped by floods as President Corazon Aquino distributed cheques and food supplies to survivors of one of the Philippines' worst disasters.

After a bitter 15-hour debate, the master escapist lived up to his nickname Houdini by outmanoeuvring dissidents who wanted a secret ballot. He won the open roll-call vote of the ruling Fiamma Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party 55-22.

Haughey, one of Europe's longest-serving leaders, has now survived four leadership challenges in a decade. He called the marathon battle "probably the longest and most intense meeting of all time."

After fighting off the mutineers headed by sacked Finance Minister Albert Reynolds, Mr. Haughey said: "I feel very happy, with the outcome. First of all I am going to have a good night's sleep and then I am going to do all sorts of things."

Mr. Haughey, 66, fought a storming campaign to ensure he did not suffer the same fate as British leader Margaret Thatcher, toppled by party insiders in a "palace coup" last November.

Throughout the shattered city of 120,000 people, residents were trying to put their lives back together after tropical storm Thelma Tuesday unleashed 12-foot (three-metre) high floods that hurled people, homes and cars into the sea.

Military rescue teams were still digging out decomposing bodies from beneath mud and the debris of collapsed homes along two rivers in the ravaged port 560 kilometres south east of Manila.

"Welcome to what is left of our city," Ormoc Mayor Victoria Locsin told Mrs. Aquino before she visited a father who had lost his wife and two children in the floods which made 120,000 people homeless across the central island of Leyte.

Standing in the porch of his house in front of three coffins, 31-year-old Cornelio Bernales spoke of the huge floods which engulfed homes in a deadly torrent of mud, logs and cascading water within minutes.

To clapping from the crowd, Mrs. Aquino announced donations of 10,000 persons (\$370) for each family which had lost a member. But most people intent on rebuilding their homes hardly noticed her presence.

Mrs. Aquino also distributed money to the provincial and local governments to rebuild bridges, restore electricity and water supplies.

She was accompanied by five members of her cabinet and by the Japanese and United States ambassadors who have sent in supplies of blankets, food, medicines, sleeping mats and cloths.

"It's the intensity of the tragedy that really strikes you," said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto, offering \$1 million in help, said Japan was also hit by several typhoons a year.

"Let us both stand against this horror of nature," he said in a brief speech.

Brigadier-General Romeo Zulueta, who is spearheading relief operations, said that the dead on the streets of Ormoc and the shorelines had now all been collected but more bodies were still being found at sea on islands as far as 40 kilometres away.

After initial complaints from survivors that relief supplies were not getting through, the city now appeared to be full of food, with stocks of rice and fruit on sale, and snack bars and roadside restaurants reopened for business.

Sandinistas sack city hall after blast at hero's tomb

MANAGUA (AP) — A bombing at the tomb of a revered Sandinista hero set off a rampage by his followers in which the leftist militants shot it out with former contra rebels in Managua and sacked city hall.

Former President Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista party, told a frenzied crowd that government rightists were "sowing discord, violence and instability" and warned that the violence could escalate.

"They are provoking a coup d'etat, introducing laws where they try to interpret the constitution of the republic," Mr. Ortega declared. "In the case of a coup d'etat, the people of Nicaragua would immediately rise up."

Mrs. Chamorro took office in April 1990, after a resounding victory over Ortega in a Democratic election. But her government has come under fire from the left for austerity measures aimed at reviving Nicaragua's moribund economy.

Saturday's was the biggest out-break of violence in the week-old confrontation, which has arisen over such government campaigns as an effort to privatise state farming cooperatives established under Sandinista rule.

Mr. Ortega told the crowd "we have to organise ourselves more and better... and be ready" in the event the National Assembly passes laws that run contrary to Sandinista interests.

Mr. Ortega also said police were setting up roadblocks throughout the city to search cars for weapons.

More than 18 months after Mrs. Chamorro became president of Nicaragua, her government remains locked in conflict with

the Sandinistas, whose 10-year rule was characterised by class conflict, economic decline and war with the U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

In Matagalpa, 130 kilometres northeast of Managua, two government supporters were dragged out of their cars and beaten by Sandinista crowds and set fire to the tomb.

Sandinistas blamed right-wing Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman, partly because of recent bitter feuding between him and Mr. Ortega. But Vice President Virgilio Godoy blamed Mr. Ortega, implying it was an excuse to engage in violence.

"The Sandinistas have the money and the bombs to do it," he told a pro-government radio station.

Speaking to a crowd of several thousands at the Plaza of the Revolution, Mr. Ortega accused Mr. Godoy, Mr. Aleman and National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar of creating instability by bringing back Mr. Somoza's right-wing, anti-Sandinista attitudes. Mr. Somoza was ousted in 1979.

Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado said in a brief broadcast that security for government officials and legislators was increased. He asked the Sandinista People's Army to help patrol the streets of Managua.

Mr. Hurtado also said police were setting up roadblocks throughout the city to search cars for weapons.

More than 18 months after Mrs. Chamorro became president of Nicaragua, her government remains locked in conflict with

the Sandinistas, whose 10-year rule was characterised by class conflict, economic decline and war with the U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

An AP photographer at the scene said the Sandinistas were using rocket-launched grenades and AK-47 rifles, and that AK-47 fire was returned from the building's second-story windows.

A vehicle belonging to the Organisation of American States mission in Nicaragua, parked in front, was destroyed by a grenade.

"They are our enemies and they will continue. We expect them back," said Pedro Lopez, who said he worked in the contra office's Planning Department.

The brief statement, faxed to the AP office in Managua, did not mention injuries.

A group of about 20 armed men destroyed Radio La Corporacion which is owned by Sandinista opponents and is known for its right-wing views.

Manager Justo Rufino Meneses said in a telephone interview the attackers ordered the seven staffers present to leave.

"Then they gunned the equipment and destroyed it," he said.

It was the second time in a year that Sandinistas destroyed Radio La Corporacion.

Masked Sandinistas also broke into Radio Dario, a station in Leon 80 kilometres northwest of Managua, and sprayed the equipment with gunfire, station owner Juan Jose Terune told the government station Radio Nicaragua. Nobody was injured.

Earlier in the day, a 10-minute shootout broke out when two large truckloads of Sandinista

rebels were nowhere to be seen at the city hall building or the contra offices.

Looters smashed computers

and typewriters on the pavement

outside, while others walked away carrying desks, chairs and file cabinets on their heads.

Firefighters were chased away at gunpoint, and the Sandinista

controlled police were nowhere to be seen at the city hall building or the contra offices.

In a parking lot behind city

hall, looters smashed car windows

and set two fires.

They stood around the engine of a red

Toyota and picked out parts.

Column

Canine convention called off because 'John Major' sick

LONDON (R) — It's a dog's life for John Major, named after Britain's prime minister by pranksters who have set up the country's first political party for dogs. Organisers of the Raving Loony Staffordshire Bull Terrier Party said they had to postpone the inaugural gathering because canine leader John Major had fox mange.

Tax office says brothel must train employees

CANBERRA (R) — Australian tax authorities have told a south Australian brothel it must provide training for employees or face taxation penalties. The requirement, revealed by the federal opposition, relates to a scheme which provides that employers with an annual payroll of more than 214,000 dollars (\$167,000) must spend a minimum of one percent of that on training. "Naturally, all of us are wondering what sort of training programmes the Australian Taxation Office has in mind," opposition trade spokesman Alexander Downer said in a statement.

Mr. Downer released new correspondence with the tax office and an Adelaide accountant acting for the brothel confirming its legal requirement to train its workers. "I do not doubt that there are some people working in this industry who are born with natural skills for the job," Mr. Downer said. "Some forms of employment require extensive training and others do not." Prostitution is illegal in most states in Australia, including South Australia.

S. Korean police have new weapon — stethoscopes

SEOUL (R) — South Korean police have a new weapon — stethoscopes. A police spokesman said that the instruments were being used to check the boots of cars at shopping centres after a kidnapped woman was kept tied up in one last week. The Seoul housewife was abducted at knifepoint last Thursday and held for 21 hours while the kidnapper tried to get a ransom of 150 million won (\$200,000). He was captured by police as he forced the woman to relay his demands from a public telephone booth in a Seoul suburb.

More people killed by guns than cars in Texas

DALLAS (R) — Texas is the only U.S. state where more people are shot to death than die in car crashes, a medical research team has said. The team said a study showed guns killed 3,443 people in Texas in 1990 compared with 3,309 who died as a result of auto accidents. The researchers said that while their study of 1991 is incomplete, the trend has accelerated this year. They pointed to record high murder rates set in each of the last two years in Houston and Dallas and to last month's central Texas shooting rampage in which 23 people died as a lone gunman opened fire on a luncheonette crowd in Killeen. It was America's worst one-man spree with a gun. No other state has seen gun deaths outpace automobile deaths, according to data supplied to the federal centres for disease control, the researchers said.

Judge grants Holloway new trial in hitman case

HOUSTON (AP) — A state district judge Friday granted a new trial for the woman convicted of trying to hire a hitman to ensure her daughter's place on a high school cheerleading squad. State District Judge George Godwin ordered the new trial without a hearing and based his decision on evidence submitted in affidavits and brief arguments from prosecutors and defence attorneys.

Godwin said for the first time he would grant a new trial if he believed the woman was innocent.

"They are our enemies and they will continue. We expect them back," said Pedro Lopez, who said he worked in the contra office's Planning Department.

About 3 kilometres from the contra building, some 25 Sandinistas kicked and shot their way into city hall. They torched and looted offices. Dozens of residents of poor neighbourhoods joined in the lo